

From: Gil
To: DOJ
Date: 1/16/02 2:43pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I should think that my government would have better things to do with my tax dollars than persecute Microsoft. Big business is a notoriously "hard ball" environment, and other software manufacturers had several years to get their "at bats" while MS was still playing with DOS versions 1 through 4. Windows didn't really become popular until v 3.0, but the slackers in the industry failed to foresee how popular Windows would become. That's not the fault of Gates et al. As for what MS wishes to incorporate into their OS - that should be up to them. It's their product, and if they want to give away a BMW with the damn thing then that's their call! Nobody in the country is selling web browsers anyway, so what's the big deal?

None of the other software publishers is building a competitive operating system/interface to try to loosen the MS hold on the market. They'd rather sit around crying to the DOJ about how they've been beaten up by MS because they failed to forecast the market correctly. I have one word for them - TOUGH!

If you want to look into some real monopolizing why not check out Apple - they have no competition in their market for either their operating system or hardware.

Or investigate Intel - whose only real competitor, AMD, is having their share of financial woes. To lose AMD would give Intel the same kind of power that you're claiming Microsoft has garnered through hard work, outstanding marketing, and yes, occasional pressure. But then, everybody in business uses what power they may have to get the edge on their competitors - that's what makes our system work. Mass producers get lower per unit costs on everything than a Mom and Pop operation gets. That hurts the struggling independent - but nobody seems to care much - except Mom and Pop. It's the way things work! All large businesses use whatever leverage they have to improve their market share while reducing the market prospects of competitors. Microsoft has just been more successful at it than anybody in the world could have imagined when Gates bought the rights to an unpromising DOS from IBM.

Bill Gates is the "Alexander the Great" of product development and marketing. The world has never seen the likes of Microsoft before, and it might never see another such phenomena again. He hasn't done anything patently illegal, and there's no law requiring mercy for those who cannot or will not compete - let him enjoy the fruits of his labors. Please spend my tax dollars on something more meaningful than buying Kleenexes for a bunch of sobbing 'big business' tycoons who failed to read the writing on the wall. ACCEPT THE SETTLEMENT OFFER!

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